

**COMMISSION ON AGING  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 24, 2016**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Song Hutchins	Helen Abrahams
Noelle Heyman	Syed Yusuf
Rudolph Oswald	Noureen Chohan
Morton Faller	David Denton
Tamara Duell	Georgia Guenther
John Honig	
Judith Levy	<b>Alumni members</b>
Doug Newton	Jack Sprague
Myrna Cooperstein	Beth Shapiro
Charles Kauffman	Marcia Pruzan
Jerry Morenoff	Leslie Marks
Isabelle Schoenfeld	
Paul Del Ponte	<b>Guests</b>
Stephanie Edelstein	
Revathi Vikram	<b>Liaisons</b>
Miriam Keltz	Faisal Khan, Department of Transportation
Amoke Alakoye	Stephanie Moore, Housing Opportunities Commission
Barbara Multz	Jim Resnick, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services
Grace Whipple	Phil Smakula, Department of Recreation
Karen Maricheau	Austin Heyman, Office of Community Partnerships
	<b>Staff</b>
	John J. Kenney, Department of Health & Human Services
	Odile Brunetto, Department of Health & Human Services
	Tremayne Jones, Department of Health & Human Services

Chair, Noelle Heyman opened the Commission on Aging's (CoA) meeting at 9:30 am.

**Approval of minutes.**

The CoA members unanimously approved minutes from February meeting.

**Treasurer's Report.**

The current balance for the month of March is \$1,932.30.

**Boards, Committees, and Commissions Meeting; First Quarter Report.**

Noelle reported that the chairs of Boards, Committees, and Commissions affiliated with HHS had their quarterly meeting with HHS Director Uma Ahluwalia to discuss their goals and the progress made. The CoA also presents its quarterly report at these meetings. She noted that the FY17 proposed Health and Human Services budget includes money for Adult Day Care Subsidies and support for the new senior center in Potomac. A copy of the CoA 2016 First Quarter Report was previously sent to all CoA members.

## **Summer Studies.**

Summer Studies involve study and attention to a particular topic or issue, and frequently form the basis of recommendations for County action. Topics for Summer Study are proposed by CoA committees in April and selected by vote of the full CoA in May. Summer Study meetings take place in July and August. They frequently include invited guests, and are open to the public. Noelle suggested that more experienced CoA members help the new commissioners learn how priorities are met for summer studies. This year, there will be a develop a template for Summer Study reports, which should not exceed 8 pages. Noelle will deliver the reports and recommendations to the County, and the the CoA will track progress on recommendations.

## **FY17 Budget Updates.**

**Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services**, described County Executive Leggett's budget proposal, released on March 15th. Jay discussed the Senior Initiative, a multi-year, cross departmental project to (1) improve coordination, community outreach and promotion of programs designed to serve seniors, and (2) identify and plan for the short and long term needs of seniors.

### Department of Health and Human Services

- Add funding for a senior fellow to support the County's Age-Friendly Communities Initiative.
- Add funds to enhance Medical Adult Daycare subsidies, expanding service to allow 18 additional clients to attend an Adult Day Care program two days per week for socialization and medical supervision.
- Add funds to provide mandated Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS) evaluations to identify available services to help seniors and adults with disabilities remain in the community while functioning at the highest possible level of independence and personal well-being.
- Continue to provide Senior Village start-up grants for low-and moderate-income and diverse communities.
- Continue to provide nurse monitoring services to more than 2,000 senior and disabled clients receiving services through the State's new Medicaid waiver program, Community First Choice.
- Maintain the raised Adult Foster Care reimbursement rate to reduce the gap between the County and State subsidy for senior assisted living group homes.
- Continue support in the Adult Protective Services/Social Services to Adults Program to address an increase in investigations of financial exploitation resulting from new mandatory reporting requirements for banks.
- Continue to provide for a Caregiver Support Coordinator (PT) and operating costs to coordinate outreach to seniors and persons with disabilities regarding the development of a caregiver supports coordinator.

- Continue funding for a Program Manager in the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, allowing the program to add volunteers and provide more long-term care facility residents with protection and advocacy.

Jay noted that County Executive has proposed some additional funding -- about \$200,000 -- for the AERS program for additional contractual nurses to perform mandated assessments. Jay also described issues with electronic health records, a major process technology management program that largely impacted Behavioral Health. Montgomery County will be switching to the Electronic Integrated Case Management (EICM) by February 2017, with the goal of integrating 140 disparate processes across six program areas into an integrated, “no wrong door” process that will allow recipients of HHS services to apply for and obtain services more efficiently while providing a single, integrated system of record for caseworkers. Montgomery County, MD is one of the largest counties in the State of Maryland and serves a diverse population, some of which requires assistance from the County’s Health and Human Services programs. Montgomery County DHHS provides services within six program areas (Aging & Disability Services, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, Public Health Services, Special Needs Housing and Administration), each of which houses multiple discrete programs and associated processes. The objective of this project is to integrate DHHS services to:

- Enable citizens of Montgomery County to obtain DHHS services through a “No Wrong Door” approach
- Enable DHHS case workers and management to efficiently administer, manage, and track services. It will also allow the County to have an unduplicated count of persons served.

Jay stated also that his office is working with EMS and Fire And Rescue to identify “super-users” of those services, and to see if there are other resources and interventions to assist them as appropriate.

He noted that Child Protective Services resources are significantly greater than those for Adult Services. Rudy requested available data on Adult Protective Services cases, which Jay will provide.

The County Executive has not yet made a decision on the structure for implementing the Age Friendly initiative. Options include using Senior Subcabinet committees or creating a separate advisory group, but other options may be considered. The Dementia Friendly initiative is moving forward, and will be under the Age Friendly umbrella. No date has been set by which other departments and agencies need to incorporate age friendly into their planning. Right now, according to Jay, the effort is to inform them.

**Dr. Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging**, reported further on County Executive Leggett’s FY17 proposed budget. Highlights include:

- Recreation Department: North Potomac Community Center with Senior Program and lunch program– \$145,211
- WHO/AFC: Senior Fellow in HHS– \$24,000
- Meals on Wheels– \$30,000
- Adult Day Care Subsidy (18 persons)– \$100,000
- AERS contractual nurses: \$200,000
- Call N Ride age change 65 for eligibility (currently 67) thus 445 new persons eligible

- Silver Spring Victory Crossing 105 unit mixed income 95 of which are for older adults. 30% to 60% of area median income—\$300,000
- Public Information Office \$18,000 for communication/promotion of senior programs/events/ Senior Beacon 1-page monthly
- Grants to non-profits total \$1,008,768 including these 5 villages
  - Bethesda Metro (\$15,000)
  - Little Falls (\$10,000)
  - Olney Home for Life (\$15,000)
  - Silver Spring (\$30,000)
  - Takoma Park (\$3,500)

In October 2015, the CoA recommended the following items, which are **not** included in the FY17 budget.

- Respite Care \$100,000
- Adult Foster Care Rate Increase \$150,000
- Increase from part-time to full-time Caregiver Support position \$40,000
- Full-time manager for WHO/AFC Initiative \$100,000

Odile also reported that there is a vacancy in the LTCO Program.

David Denton is the CoA liaison to the Dementia Friendly initiative. There has been some discussion about changing the name of this initiative.

Interviews are underway to fill the six CoA vacancies, and appointments should be made in May or June.

There was some discussion about ways to reach out to isolated elders – those who do not go to senior centers or other events. Aging and Disability Services has produced and is distributing a glossy card containing contact information for senior resources, transportation, and senior centers. Among other residents, the card will be provided to those who cannot take their own trash to the curb, on the theory that they may need other services.

### **Legislative Session Update.**

Rudy Oswald and Doug Newton reported on legislative hearings and bills that passed both House and Senate. Over 2500 bills were introduced in the 2016 session.

### **Testimony on State Bills**

- HB 718 Asset recovery for exploited seniors act. Passed House
- SB 336 Hospitals–Designation of lay caregivers. Passed Senate. House hearing on March 10<sup>th</sup> on HB 1277
- SB 472 Family and Medical Leave Act hearing on March 3<sup>rd</sup>

- HB 580 Family and Medical Leave Act hearing on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- SB 819 Independent Living Tax Credit Act hearing on March 9<sup>th</sup>
- HB 316 hearing; a letter from COA was sent to Annapolis on Feb. 2, 2016.

#### Letters on State Bills

- HB 495 offense against vulnerable or elderly adults. Committee gave an unfavorable report.
- HB 244 closure of assisted living programs. Committee gave an unfavorable report.
- SB98 Senior Center activities operating fund passes senate letter to House on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- HB 262 & SB 805 increased funding for senior centers: letter sent to Senate on March 10<sup>th</sup>
- HB 685 State Department of Aging comprehensive plan letter sent March 1<sup>st</sup>

In response to a question about how the PPC determines which bills to support, Rudy stated that those decisions take into account CoA priorities, issues raised at the legislative breakfast, and discussions at PPC meetings. Noelle stated that public policy work is being aligned with CoA priorities. There was a question about whether draft bills are shared with substantive committees.

#### **Strategic Planning and Age Friendly Alignment.**

Judith Levy and Isabelle Schoenfeld described the connections and overlaps among the Age-Friendly Initiative, the Senior Agenda (strategic plan), and the Summit on Aging recommendations. They provided a brief recap of CoA activities in this area to date, including Summer Studies, involvement in the 2008 County Executive's Senior Summit and 2015 Summit on Aging and resulting recommendations, development of the Senior Agenda, and participation in Senior Subcabinet Workgroups. They distributed an explanatory chart setting forth the various recommendations from these events, and led the ensuing discussion. The WHO Age Friendly Community initiative and its requirements, are described in minutes of previous CoA meetings. To be certified by the WHO as an Age Friendly Community, a community must develop a strategic plan that addresses certain domains. The WHO's domains are: transportation; outdoor spaces and buildings; community support and health services; communication and information; civic participation and employment; respect and social inclusion; social participation; and housing. Individual communities can add domains to meet their own needs. There was discussion of how the characteristics and demographics of Montgomery County might shape the identification of domains.

The strategic plan must include goals, action items, and performance measures. Because Montgomery County has a Senior Subcabinet, has laid much of the groundwork, and already has a strategic plan, the County was accepted at Phase Two, which is Implementation. There is a need to align the terminology and perhaps some other items in the various reports and recommendations, to be sure that they are consistent with Age Friendly language and concepts.

Discussion focused on the CoA's role in this process. Several points were made. The CoA is not responsible for implementing this initiative. Rather, the CoA's role is to advise the County and to advocate on issues that we identify. The CoA will help to raise awareness of "Age Friendly" across various groups, including residents, agencies, and the business community; will continue to advocate for a full-time, high level manager of this initiative within County government; will help to identify the

domains; will monitor County progress towards the goals identified in the strategic plan. The point was also made that this initiative will have both short and long-term goals, so it needs to be embedded in the County planning process and sustainable. Several CoA members are also involved in implementation efforts in roles outside of the CoA.

A copy of the chart distributed by Isabelle and Judy is attached to these minutes.

### **CoA Budget Priorities.**

Noelle will testify before the County Council on the CoA's budget priorities on April 6, 2016. That testimony will support the County Executive's FY17 Senior Initiative budget enhancements including: increase in funds for Medical Daycare subsidies for additional clients to attend Adult Day Care program; additional funds for mandated Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS) evaluations; new funds for a Senior Fellow position to support the County's Age-Friendly Communities initiative. It also includes additional funds for operating and staffing a full senior program at the new North Potomac Community Center; additional funds to support Victory Crossing, a mixed-income senior development in Silver Spring; enhancing the Call N Ride program by decreasing the minimum age for eligibility from age 67 to 65; additional funds to provide low-income immigrant seniors with in-center and educational field trip activities, and an increase in Meals on Wheels.

The testimony will also reiterate support for the following CoA priorities:

- **Montgomery County Respite Services Program**—Increase in funds to provide additional respite services for individuals who are caring for older adults in Montgomery County. FY 17 recommendation: \$100,000. This would serve an additional 30 people in 2017.
- **Adult Foster Care Program**—The Commission has sought incremental increases in the payment rates for Small Group Homes in the Adult Foster Care Program. FY17 recommendation: \$153,180. This will help to retain the participating providers and retain placements for vulnerable residents. This would be the second payment of three needed to bring the rate paid up to the state rate under Medicaid. The 2015 budget made the first step in this regard.
- **Case Management Social Services to Adults Program**—The Commission recognizes that as of December 2015 there were 205 adult residents on the Social Services to Adults Program waiting list to receive case management support. FY17 recommendation: \$80,000. This would pay for staffing one full-time social worker position to serve an additional 50 people.

### **Council Member Visits.**

Rudy reminded CoA members of the upcoming meetings with Council members. Groups of 2-3 CoA members will meet with Councilmembers in March/April to discuss the County Executive's budget and CoA priorities. Council members will receive written packets containing the Senior Agenda, information about the CoA, and the CoA budget testimony.

### **Liaison Updates**

Department of Recreation. Phil Smakula reported that registration for the 2016 Senior Olympics is now open. The games will be held from May 4 through Oct. 2 at venues in Montgomery County, Howard, Prince George's, Anne Arundel and Frederick counties. This year is a qualifying year for the 2017 National Senior Games in Birmingham, Alabama. Senior Olympics is featuring over 140 events in 22

sports on the state level, including non-qualifying participatory sports -- billiards, bocce, croquet and lawn bowling.

Participants must be at least 50 years old. The Maryland games are open to out-of-state athletes. Registration deadline is one week prior to the event. Information is at [www.mdseniorolympics.org](http://www.mdseniorolympics.org), by email at [info@mdseniorolympics.org](mailto:info@mdseniorolympics.org), or by calling 240-777-4930.

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service. Jim Resnick discussed the Fire and Rescue program that offers free smoke detectors for seniors and low-income residents. In a collaboration with Meals on Wheels, Fire and Rescue met with 54 seniors and low-income residents this month to install 52 smoke detectors, and changed 44 batteries to help prevent fires.

Housing Opportunities Commission. Leslie Marks reported that HOC is collaborating with Montgomery County Libraries to bring books and other library services to senior housing residents.

CoA Alumni Group. Chuck Kauffman reported that the alumni group is active and growing. Six members are in attendance today.

#### **Other Reports and Information.**

WAVE. Miriam Keltly reported that the next WAVE quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2016 from 9-12pm at 2121 N. Culpepper Street, Arlington, VA 22207. Washington Area Villages Exchange (WAVE) is a forum through which nonprofit villages in the Washington DC metropolitan area share experience and ideas. WAVE works with senior serving and inter-generational organizations and agencies, and encourages the growth and improvement of the village movement within the Washington area. WAVE has quarterly meetings hosted by member organizations on a rotating basis in the three jurisdictions. The meeting include speaker covering a topic of interest to the member organizations with time for questions. More information about WAVE is at [www.wavevillages.org](http://www.wavevillages.org).

City of Gaithersburg. Grace Whipple provided information about the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual City of Gaithersburg Active Aging Expo, to be held on May 2, 2016, from 9:00 a.m.-noon.

All members were reminded to check the list of CoA committees and send any updates to Tremayne.

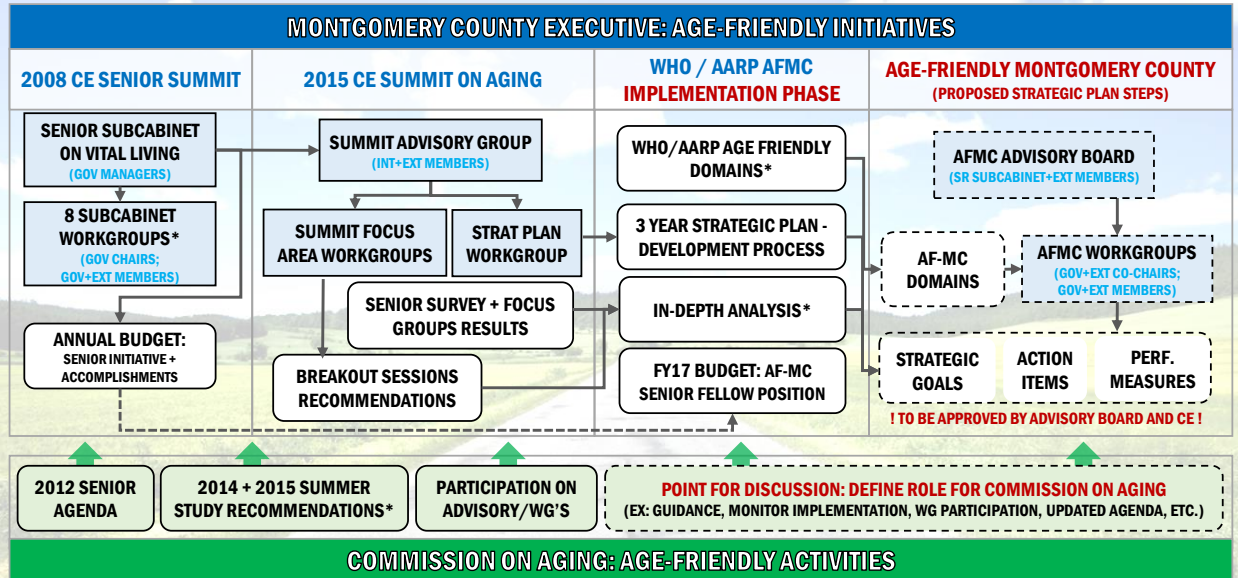
The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Stephanie Edelstein, Secretary

#### *Attachment:*

- Age Friendly Montgomery County: Roadmap

# AGE-FRIENDLY MONTGOMERY COUNTY: ROADMAP



## NOTES

**\*SUBCABINET WORKGROUPS**  
 Transportation | Housing | Civic + Social Engagement | Employment | Communications | Health + Wellness | Home/Com-based Services | Security + Safety

**\* COA SUMMER STUDIES**  
 • 2014 Summer Study: Improve Advocacy for Older Adults in Planning  
 • 2015 Annual Meeting: Gail Kohn (AF-DC) + Jeanne Anthony (AARP AF)  
 • 2015 Summer Study: Localities' Approaches for Aging in Community

**\* WHO/AARP AGE-FRIENDLY DOMAINS**  
 Outdoor spaces | Transportation | Housing | Social participation | Respect + Social Inclusion | Civic participation + employment | Communication + Info | Community support + Health services | Elder abuse (DC add-on) | Emergency prep (DC add-on)

**\* IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS**  
 • Domains: Senior agenda, Sub-cab workgroups, WHO domains  
 • Priorities: Summit recs, focus groups, survey results, WHO checklist, expert input

**LEGEND**  
 OVERSIGHT / WORKGROUP  
 ACTIVITY / OUTPUT  
 RED = NOW/FUTURE